

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION NATO

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SUNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: STRULAK JULY 17 PRESS CONFERENCE
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0372

SUMMARY: Q'S AND A'S AFTER STRULAK JULY 17 PRESS STATEMENT
(MBFR VIENNA 0372) ZEROED IN ON HIS REFERENCE TO
"ANOTHER INITIATIVE" ON FORCES DEFINITIONS BY SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES IN THE SIXTH NEGOTIATING ROUND. STRULAK
ATTEMPTED TO HIDE BEHIND CONFIDENTIALITY RULE, BUT THE
THRUST OF THE MEDIA INQUIRIES WAS THAT IF THE EAST MENTIONS
A NEW PROPOSAL AND RESISTS DISCUSSING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MOVE
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FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, THIS SMACKED OF PROPAGANDA.

TO RESCUE STRULAK FROM HIS EVASIVE RESPONSES POLISH PRESS SPOKESMAN WIEZCOREK TRIED TO "SHAPE" UP THE PRESS, TELLING THOSE PRESENT THAT THE EAST WAS NOT "NEGOTIATING WITH THE PRESS" AND THAT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASK "SERIOUS" QUESTIONS. STRULAK TRIED TO SMOOTH THE RIPPLES THIS CAUSED. AUSTRIA'S LEADING DAILY, DIE PRESSE, EDITORIALIZED ABOUT THIS INCIDENT ON JULY 18. IT TOOK COGNIZANCE OF THE REMAINDER THAT THE PRESS SHOULD RAISE "SERIOUS QUESTIONS", BUT REQUESTED IN TURN THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE REALITY AND SERIOUSNESS WITH RESPECT TO EASTERN PROPOSALS SUCH AS THE ONE ABOUT FORCES DEFINITIONS. TEXT OF Q'S AND A'S FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. Q. (AP) IN YOUR STATEMENT YOU CALLED ATTENTION TO THE HELSINKI SUMMIT MEETING. IS THERE A CHANCE THAT THE VIENNA TALKS MIGHT COME UP THERE? THAT THE SITUATION HERE MIGHT BE DISCUSSED IN HELSINKI?

A. THAT WOULD BE A QUESTION WHICH COULD BETTER BE ASKED OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN HELSINKI. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO ANSWER IT. THERE ARE 35 NATIONS PARTICIPATING AT THE SUMMIT.

2.Q. (CBS) ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED IN THE LACK OF PROGRESS HERE? DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANY CHANCE FOR REDUCTION OF TROOPS BY THE END OF THE YEAR?

A. WELL, AS YOU KNOW IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE SIDE TO AGREE, AND I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE STILL BELIEVE THAT WE OFFER A REALISTIC PLATFORM FOR AGREEMENT. WE MADE IN GENERAL TERMS PROPOSALS ON AN AGREEMENT IN INITIAL STEPS-A RANGE OF PROPOSALS WE HAVE OFFERED- AND IF TAKEN UP THIS CAN BEAR FRUIT.

3.Q. (DPA) YOU MENTIONED THIS NEW ISSUE OF AGREEMENT ON A DEFINITION OF FORCES. WHAT FORCES SHOULD BE INCLUDED? THE ARMED FORCES, THE AIR FORCES, I TAKE IT. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS AGREED DEFINITION SHOULD BE GIVEN IN A SORT OF SPECIAL AGREEMENT, OR SHALL WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CONNECTION WITH THIS ONE COULD ALSO SOLVE THE QUESTION OF HOW MANY FORCES EACH SIDE HAS-YOU KNOW, THIS QUESTION WHICH ALWAYS CAME UP, THE QUESTION ON FIGURES?

A. I WOULD RATHER BE RELUCTANT TO GO INTO ANY DETAILS. YOU UNDERSTAND UNDER WHAT RULES WE INFORM YOU HERE, AND HAVING SAID THAT I DON'T WANT TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE

SAID. HOWEVER, IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME A QUESTION ABOUT FIGURES, THAT IS IN OUR VIEW A DIFFERENT QUESTION. I CAN ELABORATE ON THIS QUESTION.

4. Q. (PRESSE) DID YOU SO FAR CORRECT THE FIGURES LAID ON THE TABLE BY THE WESTERN SIDE?

A. NO, WE HAVE NOT, BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED FIGURES. IT IS OUR POSITION THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS FIGURES WHEN WE WOULD KNOW WHAT IT IS WE WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT.

5. Q. (PRESSE) SO THERE IS A CONNECTION WITH THIS LAST PARAGRAPH (OF STRULAK PRESS STATEMENT) ON YOUR NEW PROPOSALS, SAYING THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND OUT AN AGREED DEFINITION, WILL YOU BE PREPARED TO LAY ON THE TABLE THE FIGURES AS YOU SEE THEM?

A. NO, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT NECESSARILY. (FOLLOW-UP QUESTION: BUT IT COULD?) I WOULD NOT GO BEYOND WHAT I SAID. THIS IS A THING WHICH WE HAVE PROPOSED, AND YOU KNOW OUR POSITION ON THE FIGURES.

6. Q. (REUTERS) WOULD THIS DEFINITION NOT BE PRIMARILY A TECHNICAL QUESTION? IN WHICH WAY DO YOU SEE THAT THIS WOULD ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE DISCUSSING A RANGE OF QUESTIONS

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

HERE, INCLUDING TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE TO AVOID TECHNICAL QUESTIONS; HOWEVER, IN MY VIEW IT IS NOT A TECHNICAL, IT IS A GENERAL QUESTION.

7. Q. (REUTERS) CAN YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND BY DEFINITIONS?

A. THE IDEA IS WHAT I SAID. THE DEFINITION OUGHT TO COUNT FORCES INTO GROUND FORCES AND AIR FORCES. (FOLLOW-UP QUESTION: IS THAT VERY DIFFICULT?)

8. Q. (PRESSE) DOES THE TERM "FORCES" COMPRISE ATOMIC WEAPONS AS WELL?

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A. IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE PEOPLE FROM THEIR ARMAAMENTS. IF YOU TAKE THE ARMAMENTS FROM THEM, THEY AREN'T SOLDIERS. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT BY THE TERM "FORCES" WE MEAN PEOPLE WHO ARE ARMED, WHO HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL ARMAMENTS, COMBAT EQUIPMENT.

9. Q. (FINANCIAL TIMES) MR. AMBASSADOR, I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO INTO ANY DETAILS. AS YOU MENTIONED, WE ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT YOU MUST NOT GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN YOUR STATEMENT. MAY I RESPECTFULLY ASK YOU: WHAT IS THE POINT OF MENTIONING THIS PROPOSAL? I MEAN, SHOULD WE REPORT THAT THE SOCIALIST DELEGATIONS ONCE MORE SUBMITTED A NEW PROPOSAL WHICH SHOULD PAVE THE WAY TO AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION, AND WE CAN'T SAY WHAT THE PROPOSALS ARE? WHAT IS THE POINT OF MAKING A PRONOUNCEMENT ABOUT PROPOSALS, IF NOT JUST FOR THE SAKE OF PROPAGANDA?

A. I SHOULD PERHAPS ANSWER YOUR QUESTION AND GO DEEPER

BY SAYING WHY SHOULD THESE NEGOTIATIONS BE DECLARED CONFIDENTIAL? THEY ARE CONFIDENTIAL, AND THERE IS CONFIDENTIALITY. HOWEVER, ON THE OTHER HAND YOU MAY APPRECIATE THAT I FEEL A CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS YOU AND TRY TO BE AS INFORMATIVE AS POSSIBLE. THE DISCUSSION IS ABOUT AN INITIATIVE, AND I WILL INFORM ABOUT IT AS FAR AS I CAN. (WIECZOREK: THERE IS NO USE TO PRETEND THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.)

10. Q. (REUTERS) WELL, I DO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, INsofar AS YOU HAVE DISCLOSED ALL THE PREVIOUS PROPOSALS MADE IN THE SESSIONS. NOW YOU TELL US THAT THERE IS A NEW INITIATIVE, BUT YOU TELL IT TO US IN SUCH GENERAL TERMS THAT I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN IT IN ANYWAY TO A NEWSPAPER READER SO THAT HE CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WAS.

A. I THINK IT IS CLEAR. I MEAN, IT IS CLEAR.
(WIECZOREK: MILITARY EXPERTS CAN EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.)
THERE WILL BE FORCES IN THE GROUND FORCES, AND THERE WILL BE OTHERS. THE PURPOSE OF THE DEFINITION IS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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DO THAT.

11. Q. (PRESSE) MR. AMBASSADOR, TO WHICH EXTENT WOULD IT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CONSIDERATIONS OFFERED BY THE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES?

A. WELL, IT MEANS JUST THAT. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SAY? BY CONSIDERATIONS I MEAN THAT EVERYONE HERE IS OBJECTIVELY INTERESTED TO KNOW WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, ONE SIDE SAYS GROUND FORCES, WHAT DOES IT MEAN? AND WHEN THE OTHER SIDE SAYS AIR FORCES, WHAT DOES IT MEAN? THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT, I THINK. IT IS A PRACTICAL QUESTION. IT IS SO TO SAY TECHNICAL, BUT IT IS OF BASIC NATURE.

12. Q. (REUTERS) WOULD IT BE FAIR, MR. AMBASSADOR, TO SAY THAT WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO FIND AT THIS POINT IS WHERE TO INCLUDE SUPPORT FORCES, HELICOPTER-BORN FORCES, FORCES OF THIS KIND, AND IN WHICH CATEGORY THESE FORCES FALL?

A. YOU MAY MAKE YOUR GUESSES AS TO THE DETAILS.
(WIECZOREK: AFTER ALL, WE ARE NOT NEGOTIATING WITH THE JOURNALISTS. RESPONSE BY NEWSMEN: VERY INTERESTING')

13. Q. (FINANCIAL TIMES) MAY I JUST SAY WHAT MY

COLLEAGUE MR. WIELAND SAID. YOU ARE FORTUNATELY NOT JUST INFORMING DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS, BUT ALSO PUBLIC OPINION. AND IF AFTER TWO YEARS THE SOCIALIST SIDE CAME UP WITH TREMENDOUS PROPOSALS ON DEFINITIONS AND WE CAN'T FIND OUT WHAT YOU ARE NEGOTIATING ABOUT, HOW CAN WE PUT IT SO THAT IT HAS THE REQUIRED EFFECT? WE HAVE TO PEN-POINT A LITTLE BIT- WHAT IS IT?

A. FIRST, I THINK IT IS VERY UNFAIR TO SAY THAT AFTER TWO YEARS YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE PROPOSALS ARE THAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING ABOUT. THAT IS COMPLETELY UNTRUE. I THINK I HAVE MADE THE POINT VERY CLEAR IN MY STATEMENT, AND ENUMERATED ALL THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE MADE. I WILL NOT INDULGE IN DISCUSSING IT WITH YOU. (WIECZOREK: UNCLASSIFIED

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE SHOULD POSE MORE SERIOUS QUESTIONS, AND THE AMBASSADOR WILL OPEN TO THE QUESTIONS.) WILL, I AM OPEN TO ANY QUESTION. IF IT WASN'T A SERIOUS QUESTION, I WOULD NOT MENTION IT. BUT PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND MY LIMITATIONS.

18. Q. (PRESSE) WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE NOT NEGOTIATING WITH JOURNALISTS. I THINK THAT IS QUITE INTERESTING.

A. I DIDN'T SAY THAT. PRESSE: NO, BUT YOUR COLLEAGUE SAID IT.

19. Q. (CBS) WHAT WILL YOU DO DURING THIS RECESS? WILL YOU GO BACK AND TALK TO YOUR GOVERNMENT ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE, AND WHETHER THERE COULD BE ANY MORE CONCESSIONS, OR ANY PROPOSALS, OR WILL THIS BE A COMPLETE REST FROM THESE TALKS?

A. THIS IS AN INTERESTING QUESTION. THERE IS NEVER A COMPLETE REST IN ANYTHING, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. THERE IS ALWAYS GREAT ACTIVITY, WITH SO MANY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS TAKING PLACE. AS I SAID, THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR US, AND WE CONSTANTLY ANALYZE THE MOVES THAT ARE MADE HERE, THE POSITIONS THAT ARE PRESENTED. I THINK THAT WILL BE TRUE OF THIS ROUND AS WELL. THOUGH THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT, AS YOU SUGGEST, WE WOULD BE USING IT MAINLY TO THINK IN TERMS OF CONCESSIONS. WE CONSTANTLY THINK, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, IN TERMS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS.

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I MEAN THE BASIC PROPOSALS, AND THEN THE SUPPLEMENTARY
ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS WHICH WERE MADE WITH A VIEW TO
MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. THIS IS YET ANOTHER
PROPOSAL IN THE SAME SPIRIT. ONE WITH THE SAME AIM.
YOU KNOW ALREADY THAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING ABOUT THE
REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS. WE ALSO KNOW,
AND THAT EVERYONE KNOWS AND CAN UNDERSTAND, THAT YOU
HAVE AIR FORCES AND YOU HAVE GROUND FORCES. AND THAT'S
WHAT WE ARE TO DEAL WITH. AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF
DEALING WITH IT, I THINK IT IS USEFUL AND THIS IS
UNDERSTANDABLE TO EVERYONE THAT ONE SHOULD KNOW
WHAT IS WHAT.

14. Q. (REUTERS) HAVE YOU HAD ANY REACTION FROM THE
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WESTERN SIDE, TO THIS INITIATIVE OF YOURS?

A. WE HAVE SAID THAT THE THING IS UNDER DISCUSSION,
AND THE DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE.

15. Q. (FINANCIAL TIMES) WHEN EXACTLY DID YOU MAKE
THIS LAST PROPOSAL?

A. DURING THIS ROUND. (FOLLOW-UP QUESTION: IN THE MIDDLE,
TOWARDS THE END, EARLY, TODAY?) (CBS:THIS IS A BRAND-NEW
ELEMENT, IS THAT RIGHT?) THIS IS A NEW ELEMENT.

16. Q. IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE TO ASK THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN
WHAT THE RESPONSE WAS.

A. THAT WILL BE HIS RESPONSIBILITY.

17. Q. (PRESSE) CAN YOU GIVE YOUR DEFINITION OF GROUND
FORCES AND AIR FORCES?

A. WELL, I TOLD YOU THAT THIS UNDER DISCUSSION.
THAT IS AN UNDERSTANDABLE OBJECTIVE.

WE NOW PART FOR THE SUMMER. THIS IS THE OCCASION TO
SAY THAT I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO GOOD COOPERATION WITH
YOU. I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE THAT I AM TRYING MY BEST
WITHIN THE POSSIBILITIES. OF COURSE, THE KIND OF PICTURE
I PRESENT TO YOU DOES NOT DEPEND ON ME. WE ARE
OPTIMISTIC. THERE REMAIN STILL MANY DIFFERNCES,
BUT YOU KNOW THIS AS WELL AS I DO. END TEXT.RESOR

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